Ministry of Advanced Education

Plan for 2015-16

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Government of Saskatchewan

Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Kevin Doherty

Minister of Advanced Education

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Advanced Education's Plan for 2015-16. This document outlines how our Ministry's actions support Government's overall direction and Budget for the current fiscal year.

Government's Direction and Budget for 2015-16 is focused on *Keeping Saskatchewan Strong*, balancing building for the future with fiscal responsibility.

Post-secondary education is vitally important to meeting our labour market needs, supporting the growth of Saskatchewan's economy and enriching the life of communities across the province. The Ministry of Advanced Education will play a key role in the success of our post-secondary education system by providing operating and capital resources to post-secondary institutions and through an array of supports for students. We will also collaborate with our institutional partners to ensure that the sector is accountable and sustainable, and responsive to the needs of students.

I accept responsibility for furthering Government's commitments, values and principles while ensuring the Ministry of Advanced Education is managed with integrity and professionalism.

The Ministry will report on progress made toward this Plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2015-16 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Keeping Saskatchewan Strong*. The province faces challenges due to volatile resource revenue; however, Saskatchewan's economy is diverse and resilient. There are strengths in many sectors from agriculture and manufacturing to resources such as potash and uranium.

With controlled spending and continued support for the conditions necessary for economic growth, the Government will meet the needs of our growing province. Investments in people and infrastructure continue to support Government's commitment to establishing Saskatchewan as the best place to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Government's vision and four goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's citizens.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2015-16 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

Our Ministry is responsible for the post-secondary education system that supports a growing Saskatchewan and that leads to a higher quality of life. We will work with our post-secondary institutions towards system innovation and sustainability, and to achieve the following goals:

- Increase participation in and completion of high-quality advanced education for all students, especially First Nations and Métis people;
- Retain educated and skilled workers in the province; and,
- Attract students from outside of the province and the country by promoting Saskatchewan's opportunities.

Mission Statement

The Ministry provides leadership and resources to foster a high-quality advanced education and training system that responds to the needs of Saskatchewan's people and economy.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: improving education outcomes.

Ministry Goal

Students succeed in post-secondary education

Strategy

Provide financial supports for current and future students

Key Actions

- Support savings for post-secondary education through the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings
- Provide financial student supports including:
  - Canada-Saskatchewan Integrated Student Loan
  - Saskatchewan Student Bursary
  - Grants
  - Scholarships

Strategy

Provide non-financial supports for students

Key actions

- Support credit transfer between Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions
- Increase student access to open education resources

Strategy

Increase post-secondary education attainment with a focus on underrepresented groups

Key actions

- Increase funding to Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
- Encourage institutions to increase enrollment of First Nations and Métis people
- Encourage the universities to increase the retention of First Nations and Métis between first and second year of multi-year programs
- Contribute to development of the government-wide disability strategy

Performance Measures

Post-secondary Educational Attainment of Population Aged 15 Years and Over and Employment Rate by Credential
This metric changes very slowly over time. The 2015-16 target is to maintain the attainment level.

Educational Attainment of First Nations and Métis and Non-First Nations and Métis Populations Aged 15 Years and Over Credential
This metric changes very slowly over time. The 2015-16 target is to maintain the attainment level. Over time the target is to match the attainment level of the overall Saskatchewan population.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the International Education Strategy: investing in infrastructure and planning for growth; improving education outcomes; increasing immigration; and engaging the world.

Ministry Goal

The Saskatchewan post-secondary system is sustainable, accountable and responsive

Strategy

Provide operational and capital funding for post-secondary institutions

Key actions

- Provide operational funding
- Develop and implement a sector-wide capital plan

Strategy

Foster greater cooperation and integration among universities, regional colleges and technical institutes

Key actions

- Encourage post-secondary education sector collaboration
- Increase efficiencies within the post-secondary sector

Strategy

Encourage institutions to be more globally engaged

Key actions

- Increase the number of international students studying in Saskatchewan
- Inform international students and scholars of pathways for them to re-locate and work in Saskatchewan

Strategy

Support Saskatchewan students to engage in international learning experiences

Key actions

- Begin implementation of the Saskatchewan International Future Scholarship
- Increase the number of students engaged in international learning experiences

Strategy

Ensure programs meet defined standards

Key actions

- Fully implement new regulations for private vocational schools
- Ensure that new degree program applications undergo the Quality Assurance process

Strategy

Ensure the sector is accountable

Key actions

- Continue development of sector-wide post-secondary education indicators
- Continue implementing the Action Plan on Accountability and Governance
- Implement new business planning process for the training sector

Strategy

Continue to implement continuous improvement approaches

Key action

- Continue to use Lean methodology and other continuous improvement approaches across the sector and within the Ministry

Performance Measures

Number of international students studying in Saskatchewan
By 2020, increase the number of international students studying in Saskatchewan by 75% over the 2011 baseline to be established in partnership with the post-secondary institutions in 2015-16.

Number of Saskatchewan students studying abroad
By 2020, increase the number of Saskatchewan students studying abroad by 50% over the 2011 baseline to be established in partnership with the post-secondary institutions in 2015-16.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priorities from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: increasing Saskatchewan's competitiveness; improving education outcomes; and connecting workers and employers and investing in skills training.

Ministry Goal

Meet the demands of a growing province

Strategy

Incent eligible graduates to stay in the province, or move to the province, after graduation

Key action

- Support delivery of the Graduate Retention Program

Strategy

Strengthen alignment between post-secondary education and employment

Key actions

- Encourage post-secondary institutions and industry to implement additional experiential learning opportunities
- Encourage alignment of programs with labour market demand

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

The Ministry is responsive and responsible

Strategy

Continue to implement business improvement

Key action

- Implement changes as identified through business process improvement processes

Strategy

Respond to core reviews and evaluations

Key actions

- Continue to implement core program reviews in accordance with legislation
- Incorporate client feedback into core reviews and program evaluations

Strategy

Ensure adequate information technology support for clients and stakeholders

Key action

- Continue to improve the Ministry's client data system - the One Client Service Model

Highlights

Budget Highlights

- $708 million in funding transfers to post-secondary institutions.
- $7.6 million increase in operating funds, representing a two per cent increase for technical institutes and federated colleges and a one per cent increase for universities, affiliated and regional colleges.
- Following the one per cent increase and other program increases, a one-time reduction of $20 million will be applied to the University of Saskatchewan's operating grant, due to accumulated operating savings at the university, creating a net reduction of $14.7 million.
- $20.2 million direct investment in First Nations and Métis education.
- $400,000 for additional operating funding for the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies.
- $412,000 for expanded internet bandwidth at Regional Colleges.
- $200,000 to support the first year of operation of the Parkland College Trades and Technology Centre in Yorkton.
- $2.5 million increase to continue support for 40 additional medical undergraduate and 60 medical residency seats and complete the implementation of 20 nurse practitioner seats.
- $46.6 million for infrastructure, a 43 per cent increase over last year, including:
  - $23.6 million for preventative maintenance and renewal;
  - $10.6 million for construction of new Southeast College in Weyburn;
  - $7.9 million for the Health Sciences facility at the University of Saskatchewan; and
  - $4.5 million for the Parkland College Trades and Technology Centre.
- Direct support for students include:
  - $88.1 million in non-refundable tax credits for the Graduate Retention Program;
  - $32.5 million for the Student Aid Fund including student loans, grants and bursaries;
  - $14.5 million for scholarships, an increase of 21 per cent over last year; and
  - $6.5 million for the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings.

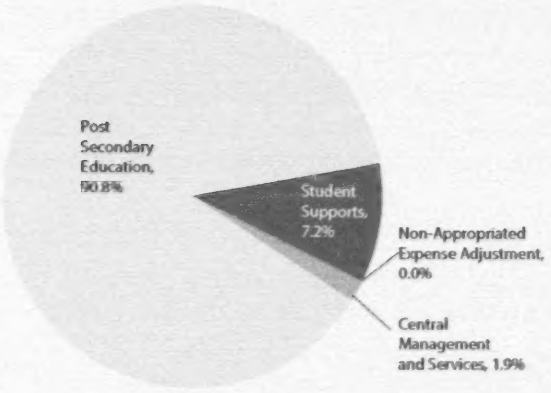
Financial Summary

AE Budget ($782.8 million)		% of Total
Central Management and Services	15,227	1.9%
Post-Secondary Education	710,742	90.8%
Student Supports	56,553	7.2%
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	310	0.0%
TOTAL	782,832	100.0%

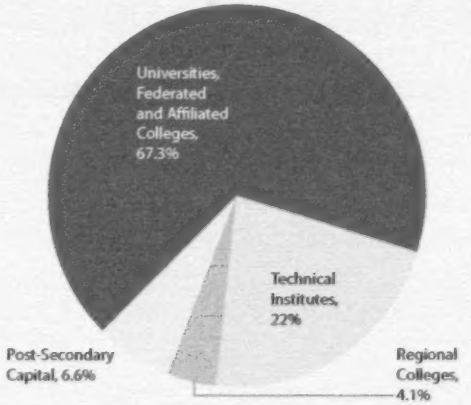
AE Transfers to Post-Secondary Institutions ($707.8 million)	Budget	% of Total
Universities, Federated and Affiliated Colleges	476,539	67.3%
Technical Institutes	155,871	22.0%
Regional Colleges	28,754	4.1%
Post-Secondary Capital	46,630	6.6%
TOTAL	707,794	100%

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

AE Budget ($782.8 million)


Post Secondary Education, 90.8%
Student Supports, 7.2%
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment, 0.0%
Central Management and Services, 1.9%

AE Post-Secondary Education ($707.8 million)



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/advanced-education for more information on the Ministry's programs and services.